

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Of the 5,000 Spanish Communists estimated to be in the USSR, all but approximately 250 are discontented and would be defectors if they were able to escape. This feeling persists despite the fact that Spanish residents of the USSR enjoy all the privileges of Soviet citizens except the franchise. Their discontent stems from the change in attitude since the Spanish Civil War, at which time they were regarded as heroes and were very popular with the Soviets. During World War II they were forgotten, and claims for special privileges as political refugees were rewarded with laughs of scorn. It is believed that most of them would do everything possible to aid agents of foreign powers opposed to the regime.
2. The distribution of the Spaniards in the USSR is approximately as follows: 2,500 in the Crimea; 1,800 in Moscow; 200 imprisoned, principally in Siberia; and smaller numbers in Leningrad, Kharkov, Rostov, Odessa, and Tbilisi.
3. Recently, colonies have been organized and have sought special representation before Soviet authorities in an effort to better their position. Dolores Ibarruri, chief of the Spanish Communists, promised to "build up" the Crimea with Spanish settlers after all Tatars had been evacuated from that area. There is now a large concentration of Spaniards in this region, but few are in sympathy with the above plan.
4. Although Spaniards formerly attended schools established especially for their orientation, this is no longer the case. In fact, Spanish children attend the same schools as Soviet children. The only exception known to source is a school for tubercular Spanish children in Yevpatoriya, which can accommodate about 180 students.

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